Please replace the claims as filed with the claims set forth below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

What is claimed is:

1.   (canceled)

2.   (canceled)

3.   (canceled)

4.   (canceled)

5.   (canceled)

6.   (currently amended):   A system for testing message flow in an enterprise application integration (EAI) message bus environment; comprising:

a test controller;

a message collector, comprising:

a first configuration interface coupled to receive first message selection criteria from the test controller;

a first receiver coupled to receive messages transmitted among enterprise applications on the message bus; and

first means for comparing data elements in the messages received through the first receiver against the first message selection criteria whereby received messages which meet the message selection criteria are identified; and

a message validator, comprising:

a second configuration interface coupled to receive message validation criteria from the test controller;

means for comparing the messages identified by the message collector against the message validation criteria; and

a first transmitter for transmitting results of the comparison to the test controller; and

a message responder to simulate a predetermined enterprise application, comprising:

a fourth configuration interface coupled to receive second message selection criteria and response rules from the test controller;

a second receiver coupled to receive messages transmitted among enterprise applications on the message bus;

second means for comparing data elements in the messages received through the second receiver against the second message selection criteria; and

a second message transmitter, responsive to the second means for comparing data elements, coupled to transmit the test messages onto the message bus in response to messages which meet the second message selection criteria;

wherein the message responder appears to enterprise applications on the message bus as the predetermined enterprise application.

7.   (original):   The system of claim 6, wherein the simulated predetermined enterprise application is unavailable to participate in testing the message flow.

8.   (original):   The system of claim 6, wherein the simulated predetermined enterprise application would introduce undesirable effects as an active participant of the testing of the message flow.

9.   (original):   The system of claim 6, further comprising a message template database containing a plurality of message templates selectable by the message responder whereby the second means for comparing compares a selected message template against messages received from the message bus.

10.   (original):   The system of claim 6, further comprising a message template database containing a plurality of message templates selectable by the message responder to generate messages for transmission onto the message bus.

11.   (previously presented):   A system for testing message flow in an enterprise application integration (EAI) message bus environment, comprising:

a test controller;

a message collector, comprising:

a first configuration interface coupled to receive first message selection criteria from the test controller;

a first receiver coupled to receive messages transmitted among enterprise applications on the message bus; and

first means for comparing data elements in the messages received through the first receiver against the first message selection criteria whereby received messages which meet the message selection criteria are identified; and

a message validator, comprising:

a second configuration interface coupled to receive message validation criteria from the test controller;

means for comparing the messages identified by the message collector against the message validation criteria; and

a first transmitter for transmitting results of the comparison to the test controller; and

a message tee coupled to the message bus and transparently interposed between first and second off-bus, point-to-point applications, the message tee responsive to control signals from the test controller and having at least one operating mode selected from a listen mode, an intercept mode and a pass-through mode.

12.   (original):   The system of claim 11, the message tee comprising:

a first translator, operable in the intercept and listen modes, for translating messages in a point-to-point format between the first and second applications into XML format; and

a third message transmitter coupled to transmit the translated messages onto the message bus.

13.   (original): The system of claim 12, the message tee further comprising:

a third receiver, operable in the intercept mode, coupled to receive XML formatted messages transmitted to one of the first and second applications from the message bus; and

a second translator for translating the received messages from XML format into the point-to-point format.

14.   (canceled)

15.   (canceled)

16.   (canceled)

17.   (canceled)

18.   (canceled)

19.   (canceled)

20.   (canceled)

21.   (previously presented): A control interface for testing message flow in an enterprise application integration (EAI) message bus environment, comprising:

a first transmitter for transmitting first message selection criteria to a message collector coupled to the message bus whereby the message collector receives messages transmitted among enterprise applications on the message bus and identifies messages which meet the first message selection criteria;

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a second transmitter for transmitting message validation criteria to a message validator whereby the message validator compares the messages identified by the message collector against the message validation criteria;

a receiver for receiving results of the comparison by the message validator; and

a fourth transmitter for transmitting control signals to a message tee coupled to the message bus and transparently interposed between first and second off-bus, point-to-point applications, the control signals directing the message tee to operate in at least one operating mode selected from a listen mode, an intercept mode and a pass-through mode.

22.   (canceled)

23.   (canceled)

24.   (canceled)

25.   (canceled)

26.   (canceled)

27.   (canceled)

28.   (canceled)

29.   (canceled)

30.   (previously presented):   A method for testing message flow in an enterprise application integration (EAI) message bus environment, comprising:

generating first message selection criteria;

generating message validation criteria;

receiving messages transmitted among enterprise applications on a message bus;

identifying received messages which meet the first message selection criteria;

comparing identified messages against the message validation criteria;

transmitting results of the comparison to a user; and

simulating a predetermined enterprise application comprising:

receiving second message selection criteria;

receiving messages transmitted among enterprise applications on the message bus;

identifying received messages which meet the second message selection criteria; and

transmitting test messages onto the message bus in response to messages which meet the second message selection criteria.

31.   (canceled)

32.   (canceled)

33.   (previously presented): A method for testing message flow in an enterprise application integration (EAI) message bus environment, comprising:

generating first message selection criteria;

generating message validation criteria;

receiving messages transmitted among enterprise applications on a message bus;

identifying received messages which meet the first message selection criteria;

comparing identified messages against the message validation criteria;

transmitting results of the comparison to a user; and

transparently listening to messages in a point-to-point format between first and second off-bus applications.

34.   (original): The method of claim 33, further comprising:

translating the point-to-point formatted messages into XML formatted messages; and

transmitting the XML formatted messages onto the message bus.

35.   (original): The method of claim 34, further comprising:

   receiving XML formatted messages from the message bus directed towards one of the first and second off-bus applications;

   translating the XML formatted messages into point-to-point formatted messages; and

   transmitting the point-to-point messages to the one of the first and second off-bus applications.

36.   (canceled)

37.   (canceled)

38.   (canceled)

39.   (canceled)

40.   (canceled)

41.   (canceled)

42.   (previously presented): A computer program product of a computer readable medium usable with a programmable computer, the computer program product having computer-readable code embodied therein for testing message flow in an enterprise application integration (EAI) message bus environment, the computer-readable code comprising instructions for:

   generating first message selection criteria;

   generating message validation criteria;

   receiving messages transmitted among enterprise applications on a message bus;

   identifying received messages which meet the first message selection criteria;

   comparing identified messages against the message validation criteria;

   transmitting results of the comparison to a user;

   simulating the predetermined enterprise application comprising:

receiving second message selection criteria;

receiving messages transmitted among enterprise applications on the message bus;

identifying received messages which meet the second message selection criteria; and

transmitting test messages onto the message bus in response to messages which meet the second message selection criteria.

43.   (canceled)

44.   (canceled)

45.   (previously presented): A computer program product of a computer readable medium usable with a programmable computer, the computer program product having computer-readable code embodied therein for testing message flow in an enterprise application integration (EAI) message bus environment, the computer-readable code comprising instructions for:

generating first message selection criteria;

generating message validation criteria;

receiving messages transmitted among enterprise applications on a message bus;

identifying received messages which meet the first message selection criteria;

comparing identified messages against the message validation criteria;

transmitting results of the comparison to a user; and

transparently listening to messages in a point-to-point format between first and second off-bus applications.

46.   (original): The computer program product of claim 42, further comprising instructions for:

translating the point-to-point formatted messages into XML formatted messages; and

transmitting the XML formatted messages onto the message bus.

47.   (original): The computer program product of claim 46, further comprising instructions for:

receiving XML formatted messages from the message bus directed towards one of the first and second off-bus applications;

translating the XML formatted messages into point-to-point formatted messages; and

transmitting the point-to-point messages to the one of the first and second off-bus applications.

48.   (canceled)

49.   (canceled)

50.   (canceled)

51.   (canceled)

52.   (canceled)

53.   (canceled)

54.   (canceled)

55.   (canceled)

56.   (canceled)

57.   (canceled)

58.   (canceled)

59.   (canceled)